

REMARKS

In the aforementioned Office Action, claims 1-21 were examined. Claims 1-5 and 7-21 were rejected. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In paragraph 2, of the Office Action, the Examiner found claims 1-5, 7-12, 14, 15, 18, and 21 to be unpatentable over *McCarty* (USPN 2,714,326). While the Examiner stated the claims were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants believe the Examiner meant U.S.C. §102. Further in paragraph 6, the Examiner found claim 6 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. In order to facilitate the allowance of the present application, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 6 and the intervening limitations of claims 2 and 3 into claim 1. As such claim 1 is now patentable over *McCarty*.

Additionally, because remaining claims 4, 5, and 7 depend from claim 1, these claims are now also allowable over *McCarty*.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the same allowable subject matter as that now found in amended claim 1. That is, claim 8 now comprises adjustment studs and "a setscrew configured for insertion into each end of the setscrew hole, the setscrew upon rotation thereof into the base piece and into contact with the adjustment studs fixedly mounts the tailpiece to the adjustment studs, wherein the setscrew holes and the setscrews are threaded so that the threaded setscrews are snugly mated with the threaded setscrew holes." Therefore, claim 8 is now patentable over *McCarty*. Furthermore, remaining claims 11-12, which depend from claim 8 are now also allowable.

Claim 14 as amended now contain the allowable subject matter of “the setscrew holes and the setscrews [being] threaded so that the threaded setscrews are snugly mated with the threaded setscrew holes.” Therefore, claim 14 is now patentable over *McCarty*. Claim 15 which depends from claim 14 is now allowable as well.

Similar amendments to claims 18 and 21 (as that of claim 14) render claims 18 and 21 patentable over *McCarty*.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In paragraph 4, the Examiner found claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 to be unpatentable over *McCarty* in view of *Hoffart* (USPN 4,539,886). Applicants traverse with respect to the amended claims.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 14, while claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18. Both claims 14 and 18 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter. As such, claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 are now allowable based on their allowable base claims.

In paragraph 5, the Examiner found claim 13 to be obvious over *McCarty* in view of *Dickson* (USPN 5,969,279). Claim 13 which depends from claim 8 is now allowable based on the incorporation of allowable subject matter into claim 8.

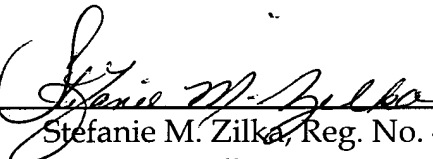
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that the rejections in the Office Action of June 17, 2005 are fully overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has questions regarding the case, she is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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